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Lisbon B-26 Deal Attempt Recalled

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Buffalo, Sept. 29 (AP)—A Government witness testified today he was unsuccessful in an attempt to sell World War II B-26 bombers to the Portuguese Government.

Gordon B. Hamilton, of Tucson, Ariz., said conditions set by the State Department killed his chance to make the sale.

Hamilton testified in United States District Court at the trial of three men charged with conspiring to export illegally seven of the twin engine bombers to Portugal.

Hamilton, a business man, said he had sold seven B-26's to Aero Associates Inc., in September, 1965, and then tried to sell others to the European nation.

He said State Department officials in Washington set a condition on exporting the B-26's to Portugal—"that use of the aircraft would be limited to Portuguese European territory."

Negotiations were broken off with Portugal, he said, when the country would not agree to the condition.

"They wanted to use them in Angola in their African colonies, I guess," Hamilton asserted.

The Government is trying John R. Hawke, 28, of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., a former British Air Force pilot; Henri de Montmarin, 58, a Paris business man accused of ordering the planes, and Woodrow W. Roderick, 48, of Winnipeg, Man., now living in the United States and accused of executing the contract.

Hawke is accused of flying seven of the bombers to Portugal.

He claims the United States Central Intelligence Agency backed the venture. The CIA denies this.